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## FACEBOOK SAYS IT'S NEUTRAL, BANS BJP MLA RAJA SINGH

**Facebook has banned the lone BJP MLA from Telangana from its platform and Instagram on charges of hate speech**

### FB RESPONDS TO CONGRESS' CHARGES

Responding to concerns raised by the opposition Congress, Facebook said it has taken the party's allegation of bias very seriously and will ensure it remains non-partisan. The social media giant added it denounces hate and bigotry in all forms. Earlier, the Congress had accused Facebook of being soft on members of the ruling BJP while applying its hate-speech rules |P9

### PAGES LINKED TO SINGH TO BE REMOVED

- "We have banned Raja Singh from Facebook for violating our policy prohibiting those that promote or engage in violence and hate from having a presence on our platform," Facebook said
- Singh won't be allowed on its platform or on Instagram. Pages, groups and accounts set up to respresent him will be taken down

### PM

MODI'S PERSONAL WEBSITE'S TWITTER ACCOUNT HACKED, RESTORED LATER

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# Relief to industry as SC bars NPA tag till further orders

Bank accounts not declared non-performing asset as of August 31 to remain so for now

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court on Thursday said standard accounts that have not been declared non-performing assets as on August 31, shall not be made declared NPAs till further orders. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan passed the interim order after hearing various stakeholders on a batch of petitions seeking interest waiver on loan moratorium granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The court will continue hearing the case on September 10.

While arguing whether banks should charge interest on moratorium period, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court, "The idea of the moratorium was to defer repayment to ease the burden caused by Covid and lockdown so that business can manage working capital. The idea was not to waive interest. The effort is that those who are affected by Covid and facing distress get the benefit and those who are defaulters are not able to take benefit." Mehta informed the bench that an expert committee will come up with sector-specific guidelines on September 6 to ease stress caused by the pandemic.

However, the bench said, "The question is about the demands of compound interest in the meantime. Moratorium and penal interest cannot go together. RBI will have to clarify."

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Indian Banks' Association, said, "Common man's problems are different from those of corporates. Individual and industrial problems need to be addressed differently."

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday asked bankers to roll out the loan restructuring framework by September 15. She also told banks to extend all possible support to MSMEs. Nirmala met the heads of scheduled commercial banks and non-banking financial institutions afte the moratorium for loans got over on August 31.

"The meeting was held to review the preparedness for implementation of the loans resolution framework for Covid-19 related stress. The minister also sought to allay the concerns of banks about NPAs and restructuring," a person privy to the meeting told *TNIE*.

"The finance minister focused on lenders immediately putting in place a board-approved policy for resolution, identifying eligible borrowers, and reaching out to them," the finance ministry stated.

### 'COVID IMPACT NOT SAME FOR ALL SECTORS'

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told SC the Covid impact has been good on pharma and IT sectors while it has been bad for many others. Moratorium offers to defer repayment so that business can manage working capital. "The idea was not to waive interest," he added.

### 'Covid hasn't dented people's aspiration'

Noting that the pandemic has not affected people's aspiration, Modi said India was among the first to advocate use of masks and social distancing

# India best investment destination: PM

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday sought to woo global investors to saying India has become a leading attraction for investments.

Modi said all initiatives of his government have been taken keeping in mind the best global practices. "India is becoming one of leading attractions for FDI. The world believes in us. This year, when there is a drop in foreign investments across the world, we received $20 billion foreign funds," he said in his keynote address at the 3rd Annual Leadership Summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

Noting that ease of living is as important as ease of doing business for his government, Modi said India has an aspirational population that has decided to take the country to new heights. "The pandemic has tested our resilience, our economic and health systems, but India is committed to democracy and diversity," he said.

Spelling out what the Atmanirbhar Bharat campaign means to India, Modi said it ensures local with global. "Over 1.3 billion people have embarked to make Atmanirbhar Bharat. Despite our local needs, we did not shy away from our global responsibilities. A self-reliant India will ensure a better world. The road ahead is full of opportunities," he said.

The PM's address assumes significance as it comes soon after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's participation in the summit and weeks after co-chairmen of the India caucus of the US Congress wrote to US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer urging him to expedite a Indo-US mini trade deal.

"India presents opportunities of a young, diverse, and rules-based economy but the persistent issues that matter to investors also loom large, namely timely judicial recourse, policy stability, and supporting infrastructure," said Kriti Upadhyay, Research Associate at the US-based CSIS Wadhwani Chair.

# New IT policy looks beyond B'luru, to create 60L jobs

**INFOSYS TO ACQUIRE US FIRM**

IT services firm Infosys on Thursday said it will acquire US-based product design and development firm Kaleidoscope Innovation for up to USD 42 million (about Rs 308 crore). This is the second acquisition by Infosys after it acquired Simplus. P15

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

INTENDING to enhance the state's Information Technology industry's contribution to at least 30 per cent of India's trillion-dollar digital economy vision, the Karnataka Government announced its new IT Policy 2020-2025. Much like in the Industrial Policy, incentives have been linked to districts categorised as zones and industries investing outside Bengaluru receiving more subsidies.

The new IT policy aims to create 60 lakh direct and indirect jobs over the next five years by facilitating ecosystems in new regions outside Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts. The cabinet also approved a Special Incentives Scheme for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector to attract industries moving out from China.

"In the IT sector, we have achieved a level of maturity in Bengaluru and it is now time to take it to Tier-II and Tier-III cities. We are calling it 'Beyond Bengaluru'. The goal of this policy is to boost IT penetration and innovation in the state holistically. The focus will be on employment generation, which is currently at 30-32 lakh, and we want to catapult it to 60 lakh," said Meena Nagaraj C N, Director, IT & BT and Science and Technology on the emphasis on 'Beyond Bengaluru' in the new IT policy. P7

# Modi's security up after email threat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE security cover of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been enhanced following an email that issued a direct threat to the PM, stating "Kill Narendra Modi".

The National Investigation Agency, which received the email, has roped in the Multi-Agency Coordination Centre (MAC), which has senior representatives from R&AW, Intelligence Bureau and the Defence Intelligence Agencies, to investigate the matter.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs is treating the matter "seriously" and has asked the Special Protection Group, which is responsible for the protection of Prime Minister Modi, to remain on high alert, according to sources in the security establishment.

The email, dated August 8, was received from the 'ylalwani12345@gmail.com' id. The NIA chose not do any inquiry/verification on its own as it thought it best to pass it on to the apex intelligence assessment body, sources said.

Sources in the security establishment say that the origin of the e-mail has being traced to a location outside India.

### Probe by apex intel body

"The NIA has received certain emails from an email ID threatening some dignitaries/agencies. The contents of the email are self-explanatory... It is requested to take action as deemed appropriate," the NIA wrote in to MAC, the apex intel assessment body, and MHA

**KARNATAKA COVID BATTLE**

8,865 New positive cases on Thursday

TOTAL CASES 3,70,206

6,054 Total Deaths

2,68,035 Total Recoveries

• FULL COVERAGE P4

**EXPRESS READ**

### Nati law school to hold own admission test

Bengaluru: The National Law School of India University (NLSIU), the country's top law institute, will not take in candidates through the all-India Common Law Admission Test (CLAT). It has decided to hold separate entrance examinations to 120 seats for its BA, LLB and LLM programmes for 2020-21. P2

### No mask needed if you are in your car alone

New Delhi: Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Thursday said there is no advisory from the Centre to suggest that those riding the vehicle alone should wear masks. P9

With this issue city's latest weekend guide INDULGE

34 pages, including 16 of Indulge (Tabloid)

# India can handle Chinese aggression in best suitable ways: Gen Bipin Rawat

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

AMID fresh inputs on the Chinese Army strengthening its deployment on the southern bank of the Pangong Tso lake, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat on Thursday said the Indian armed forces are well placed to handle the aggression in "best suitable ways". "Of late, India has been seeing some aggressive actions by China, but we are capable of handling these in the best suitable ways," Gen Rawat said while speaking at the third annual leadership summit of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

The day also saw Army Chief General M M Naravane visiting Ladakh to review operational preparedness in the region. He was briefed by the Army Commander of the Northern Command and the Corps Commander of the formation that is dealing with the stand-off in east Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control. He also visited forward positions.

The Army Chief's visit came a day after Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria flew to the Eastern Air Command, which is tasked with defending India's east, including the northern borders of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The Air Chief too, visited front-line air bases.

An IAF Chinook helicopter flies in the Ladakh region, in Leh on Thursday | PTI

As for the situation on the ground at the recent pressure points in Ladakh, a senior officer said, "We have observed that Chinese Army is beefing up its deployments in the Chushul Sector." They are accompanied by armoured, artillery and engineers too, he added. This happened immediately after the Indian Army's tactical rearrangement of its deployments and repositioning of its troops. P9

SPECIAL FORCE

## Establishment-22 draws its strength from Karnataka

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA is the "biggest recruitment ground" for the elite Special Frontier Force (SFF), which largely comprises Tibetans. The chief of the SFF — Rupon Phurbu — is a "Three Flower Dapon" (head of the unit) from one of the settlements in Karnataka and co-ordinates with the India Army, according to Chophel Thupten, the Chief Representative, Central Tibetan Administration, South Zone.

The SFF, which is also known as the 'Establishment 22' (two-two in military parlance) or the 'Vikas Battalion', was used in capturing Reqin and taking control of the heights south of Pangong Tso by the Army. "Tibetan women are also recruited to the SFF. The Army recruits the best of the lot from our settlements and trains them," said Chophel. CONTINUED ON: P7

STARTING FROM SEPT 7

# *Top up card on app, get ready for contactless Metro ride*

A demonstration by Metro staffers on how passengers should maintain social distancing while boarding

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

PREPPING to resume operations under the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic with all safety precautions, Namma Metro will facilitate contactless entry at 40 stations. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation has updated its 'Namma Metro' app for topping up Metro travel cards. And despite all the screenings and passengers being let in only one by one, Metro authorities are confident that the process will be smooth as they expect only a maximum of 80,000 commuters per day.

A S Shankar, Executive Director, Operations & Maintenance, told *The New Indian Express*, "Topping-up can be done through the app, on our website or at the Point of Sale machines at every station. The PoS machines will give a printout with a QR code which can be scanned to top up the travel card. This has been done to ensure no contact between individuals at any point due to the Covid-19 epidemic," he said.

With the first set of Metro trains set to run after a gap of 168 days from the Baiyapannahalli and Mysuru Road stations terminating stations on the Purple Line, at 8 am on Monday, hectic preparations are on.

"We have purchased 45 thermal scanners to check the body temperature of passengers at the 40 stations and they will all be utilised at the entry gates. Only one entry-cum-exit gate and an additional exit gate will be opened at most stations for safety purposes," he said.

CONTINUED ON: P2

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